



March 25, 2022

Greetings --

Last week, the Assembly released its [“One House” budget proposal](#), a spending plan of \$226.4B that includes some critical investments in education, economic recovery and job training, renewable energy and climate change, childcare, wages for essential workers, rent relief, and mental health services.

This coming week the Assembly, Senate and Governor will be in direct negotiations in hopes to come to a budget agreement before the April 1st deadline. Recently, Governor Hochul has proposed major policy changes in her state budget proposal like reforming the Joint Commission on Public Ethics ([Carroll Bill A.1929](#)), lowering the voter registration deadline to 10 days before an election ([Carroll Bill A.8858](#)), Clean Slate, a policy to clear New Yorkers’ criminal records once they have served their sentences and parole, and reinstating alcoholic drinks to go. I support all of these proposals and hope for their incorporation into our final state budget.

Unfortunately, the Governor has also proposed major rollbacks to hard won criminal justice and discovery reforms. I strongly oppose these rollbacks and hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting the Governor’s misguided proposals.

Below is a summary of the Assembly’s “One House” budget proposal.

Education

There is good news in the budget for public schools. \$30.9B in funding to General Support for Public Schools (GSPS), an increase of \$2.1B or 7%, over the 2021-22 school year. This is an additional \$120M over the Governor’s proposed budget. The Assembly plan would increase Foundation Aid by \$1.5B and would fully phase in Foundation Aid by the 2023-24 school year.

The Assembly budget also allocates \$150M for Universal Pre-K, including \$125M toward new statewide, universal full-day pre-K. Universal Pre-K has proven to be wildly popular and successful in New York City. I am glad to see this critical investment in families and in the future of New York State.

Fighting Climate Change and Investing in a Sustainable Future

The Assembly Budget makes some significant increases in investments in our environment, but a lot of work remains to be done. I am disappointed that the NY Build Public Renewables Act is still not included and beyond that, the need to be bold and aggressive to meet our climate needs and live up to our obligations set forth by the CLCPA is not being met by any of the current budget proposals. I have been clear in my belief that New York needs to do much more than this to meet the incredible need of the moment. But there are some things to celebrate.

The Assembly proposal increases funding for the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 by \$2B to be allocated for climate change related purposes, including but not limited to:

- \$500M for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at state-owned buildings
- \$450M for climate adaptation and mitigation projects, including for land acquisition and wetland protection
- \$300M to combat air pollution in environmental justice communities
- \$250M to combat water pollution in environmental justice communities

Also included in the Assembly budget was \$500M for clean water infrastructure, \$3M for Municipal Recycling, including \$1 million for food waste diversion. There was \$400M added for the state Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), and an increase of \$100M over last year's funding. The EPF funding includes \$10M for Adirondack and Catskill visitor safety and wilderness protection.

Childcare

The Assembly budget proposal made strong investments in childcare and early childhood services. \$3B in childcare investments, including \$2B to maintain current subsidies and expand eligibility to 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) over 3 years, and \$500M in for childcare stabilization grants to assist providers with operational costs and \$200M in capital support to expand access, especially to childcare deserts.

Fair Pay for Home Health and COLA raises for State Health and Mental Hygiene Workers

An inspirational statewide lobbying effort led to a long overdue investment in home health care workers in both the Assembly and Senate budget proposals. This will help retain and grow our vital home health care workforce, and give them the wages they deserve for their hard work. The Assembly budget included \$2.5B for Fair Pay for Home Care workers, and \$1.4B for an 11% Cost of Living (COLA) adjustment for direct care service providers working for several state agencies tasked with providing care to high needs populations.

Housing

The Assembly budget proposal provides relief to New Yorkers who have struggled financially during the pandemic, helping keep people in in their homes and pay their utility bills, including proposed \$1.25B for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP); \$500M million for a utility arrears program, to be administered by the Public Service Commission; and \$400M for the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP).

The Assembly budget invests in helping individuals and families who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness with an additional \$250M to establish the Housing Access Voucher Program (HVAP). This program will help them secure permanent housing and/or transition out of shelters or unsustainable housing situations.

Also included is \$500M for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) capital repairs.

The Assembly makes critical investment in helping people achieve the goal of home ownership by adding \$1.7B to the five-year affordable housing capital plan, for a total of \$6.2 billion. Within that funding, the Assembly's spending plan includes \$1.35B to fund a new Assembly homeownership program.

Funding for CUNY and SUNY

This spending plan increases funding to the State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York's (CUNY) and provides \$215 million for opportunity programs. This includes \$48.8M to SUNY and \$59.6M to CUNY to fully reimburse each system and eliminate the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) gap, and funds to increase the maximum and raise the minimum TAP award.

The Assembly also provides \$1.63 billion in expansion capital for both SUNY and CUNY for a five-year capital plan, an increase of \$1.2 billion over the executive proposal, and makes an additional investment of \$200 million in state operating support funds each for SUNY and CUNY.

Support Small Businesses and Help Rebuild New York's Economy

The Assembly budget plan includes a second round of \$25M for the Restaurant Resiliency Grant program to help New York's restaurants continue to recover and rebuild, as well as \$231.4M for the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to help theaters and museums which were hit

especially hard by the pandemic to recover, and it restores \$1 million in support for local tourism matching grants.

The Assembly also provides \$300M in state funding to ensure access to high-speed internet across the state for a total of \$1.4B when combined with \$1.1B in federal funding.

Also included in the Assembly Budget are \$320M for the New York Works Economic Development Fund, and \$250M for the Restore New York Communities Initiative. The budget proposal restores \$1.62M for Displaced Homemakers Program and \$25M in support of climate and green job training initiatives from the Workforce Development Grant Program.

The Assembly Budget includes \$50 million to support the Cannabis Management Program and provides assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in relation to the establishment of retail cannabis dispensaries. This funding will help implement the sale of adult use marijuana in New York State, which will create jobs across different industries, from agriculture to retail.

The Assembly Budget also supports the proposal to provide \$75 million for the Innovation Venture Competition program and would provide \$6 million to establish a state grant program to provide funding to small businesses that have been awarded federal grants under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR). This new program will assist small businesses engage in research and development, explore their technological potential, and help them become profitable and create jobs.

Support for Mental Health and Addiction Services

The Assembly budget includes critical investments to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder services, providing funding for community based services, for mental health services for children, public schools, and SUNY/CUNY students, for residential programming, and for Crisis Intervention Teams. The budget also appropriates \$265.9 million from the Opioid Settlement Fund to expand access to critical addiction services.

Health

The Assembly budget makes critical health investments that protect vulnerable individuals, including undocumented immigrants, pregnant and postpartum women, children and the elderly and disabled New Yorkers.

\$345M appropriation to include coverage for undocumented immigrants under the Essential Plan

Additional \$1B for safety net (\$750M) and major public (\$250M) hospitals

\$1.5M to restore funding for the Nurse-Family Partnership program. It would expand prenatal and postpartum care and services under the Medicaid program and expand postpartum Medicaid coverage to one year following a pregnancy, regardless of immigration status.

Criminal Justice Reforms

The Assembly rejects Governor Hochul's proposal to roll back the historic bail reforms the legislature passed last year. Instead of caving in to fearmongering, our budget proposal prioritizes community level interventions and keeping people out of the criminal justice system. There are significant investments in pretrial services that offer mental health treatment and other alternatives to incarceration. The budget also provides \$50M for municipal and nonprofit organizations to increase capacity and an expansion of ATI, mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs. An additional \$212.5M in funding over the proposed executive budget is dedicated to the Office of Indigent Legal Services, to provide increased representation to individuals who are entitled to counsel in court matters and are financially unable to obtain representation.

The Assembly provides an additional \$19 million for programs across the state to aimed at reducing gun violence in communities, as well as \$15M in funding to help justice system involved New Yorkers access pretrial services, including \$5M for Alternatives to Incarceration

(ATI) programs, and \$5M for pretrial services including, but not limited to job placement, drug treatment, and counseling programs.

Transportation

The Assembly budget proposal will invest \$14B in the state’s transportation network, including \$6.17B to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). This necessary funding is an increase of \$993M from last year.

Communities across the state continue to struggle with aging infrastructure and transportation networks in need of upkeep and repairs. The Assembly spending plan provides funding to municipalities to maintain their roads and bridges and makes critical investments in other modes of transportation, as well as investing in our economy and job creation.

Spring Clean and Green 2022 (In-Person Event)

Kick off your spring cleaning and greening with e-cycling and textile recycling; sustainable, green and growable giveaways; free bike etching; the latest information about solar energy, subways & buses, and much more! All conveniently located at the entrance to Prospect Park at Bartel Pritchard Square! Full details below:

Spring Clean & Green

In-Person Event **Sunday, April 3 | 10 am - 2 pm**



Sponsored by Assemblymember

**Robert
Carroll**

**Prospect Park Entrance
at Bartel-Pritchard Sq.**
B61, B68 buses & F/G train to 15th St.



**Brooklyn
Botanic Garden**
Flower & Vegetable
Seed Giveaway!

MTA NYC
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**Dept of Sanitation
Electronics Recycling**
TVs, VCRs and DVD players,
game consoles, computers,
keyboards, monitors, printers,
scanners, fax machines,
tablets, phones.
PLEASE NO APPLIANCES
NO BATTERIES, NO LIGHTBULBS



NYPD 72nd Precinct
Free Bike Etching
Dept of Environmental Protection
Sustainable giveaways and info
for homeowners



**Brooklyn
SolarWorks**
Find out how to
reduce your
electric bills with
renewable energy
alternatives



Textile Recycling
Includes: Footwear (in pairs only);
all clothing; accessories including
hats, belts, backpacks and bags
(no hard suitcases); linens including
towels, bedding, comforters, curtains,
throw rugs (no room-size rugs)
Halloween costumes & pet clothing



DSNY
Information & giveaways
for a cleaner and greener
NYC

Local Organizations
with outdoor activities & more!



For more information on this free event or other questions, please call Assemblymember Robert Carroll’s District Office at 718-788-7221 or email Carrollr@nyassembly.gov

-Bobby

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